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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/444,869	11/22/1999	HIROKAZU ICHIKAWA	046601-5029	9194

9629 7590 05/02/2003

MORGAN LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP
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WASHINGTON, DC 20004

EXAMINER

LEE, CHEUKFAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2622	

DATE MAILED: 05/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.	09/444,869	Applicant(s)	
Examiner	Chen-kan Lee	Group Art Unit	2622

—The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet beneath the correspondence address—

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE THREE (3) MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, such period shall, by default, expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Status

Responsive to communication(s) filed on 1-2-03.

This action is FINAL.

Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 1 1; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

Claim(s) 1 and 3-18 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim(s) 1 and 3-14 is/are allowed.

Claim(s) 15-17 is/are rejected.

Claim(s) 18 is/are objected to.

Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

Application Papers

See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

The proposed drawing correction, filed on _____ is approved disapproved.

The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (a)-(d)

Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

All Some* None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____.

received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

Attachment(s)

Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____ Interview Summary, PTO-413

Notice of Reference(s) Cited, PTO-892 Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948 Other _____

Office Action Summary

Art Unit: 2622

1. Claims 1 and 3-18 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, and 13-15 are independent.
2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Taguchi (Japanese Patent No. JP407272672A).

Regarding claim 15, Taguchi teaches a light source (fluorescent lamp) having a sealed container (tube 1), a pair of internal electrodes (2a, 2b) and a pair of external electrodes (5a, 5b) disposed outside the sealed container (tube 1). See accompanying drawing figures.

Regarding claims 16 and 17, the figures show two different voltages, one applied between the pair of external electrodes (5a, 5b) producing a discharge between the electrodes (5a, 5b), another one applied between internal electrodes (2a, 2b) producing a discharge between the electrodes (2a, 2b) different from the discharge between the electrodes (5a, 5b).

4. Claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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5. Claims 1 and 3-14 are allowed.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheukfan Lee at telephone number (703) 305-4867.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist at telephone number (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for formal communications intended for entry)
(703) 308-5397 (for informal or draft communications, such as proposed
amendments
to be discussed at an interview; please label such communications "PROPOSED"
or "DRAFT")

or hand-carried to:

Crystal Park Two
2121 Crystal Drive
Arlington, VA
Sixth Floor (Receptionist)

C. L.
March 20, 2003

Art Unit: 2622

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